

# **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD)

44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Twp.

March 16, 2007

## **Minutes**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed a number of Macomb County Commissioners in attendance and thanked Macomb Intermediate School District for hosting today's meeting and public hearing. Chairperson Kennedy also acknowledged Commissioner Wilson and the staff at Macomb ISD for making today's meeting possible.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Albert Lewis

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

### **OSA STAFF PRESENT**

Peggy Brey, Eric Berke, Jan Bowlin, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, Lynne McCollum, Laura McMurtry, Neelam Puri, Cherie Mollison and Sally Steiner

### **VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

Tina Abbate-Marzolf, Fred Barbret, Karen Berdorf, Bob Brown, Shenlin Cheu, Shirley Cushing, Joan Flynn, Monique James, Jim McGuire, Sue Rocca, Jon Switalski, Tom Wyllie, Angela Willis, and Dr. Chathapuram Ramanathan

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- Meetings with policy committee members of the House and Senate
- Conducted presentations for the House Policy Committee and Appropriations Sub-Committee on aging issues
- Recently met with retirees groups in Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant
- Attended the Long-Term Care Commission Retreat

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Senior Community Service and Employment Program (SCSEP) Reprogramming Policy**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested the Commissions approval of the SCSEP Reprogramming policy, effective March 16, 2007.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the SCSEP Reprogramming Policy. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

### **Program Year (PY) 2007 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Grant Allocation**

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, requested the Commissions approval of PY 2007 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Grant allocation in the amount of \$900,000 to MMAP, Inc. for the operation of MMAP. Ms. Puri stated the funds are granted to the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), specifically for State Health Insurance Programs (SHIPS). Ms. Puri noted that MMAP is Michigan's SHIP.

Ms. Puri also stated the funds will be used to support MMAP counselors at the local level in their efforts to provide outreach, education and assistance to seniors with Medicare/Medicaid related issues, long term care coverage and the new prescription drug coverage program Part D.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve PY 2007 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program Grant Allocation. Commissioner Bieber seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

### **Revision to the Legal Assistance Funding Requirements**

Lynne McCollum and Eric Berke, OSA staff, reviewed the current legal assistance funding requirements with the Commission stating that Michigan has established a two-tiered legal services expenditure system. The system includes a minimum percentage of Title III-B funding requirement by each area agency on aging (AAA) and a statewide maintenance of effort (MOE) level that must be maintained. OSA is seeking a change in these requirements to reduce the complexity of the multi-tiered funding system, provide stable and predictable funding levels for legal assistance services, and simplify area plan budget development and review. This change will require approval of a revision to Standard C-9 of the Operating Standards for Area Agencies on Aging that will raise the required minimum expenditure for Legal Services from 5% to 6.5%, effective Fiscal Year (FY) 2007.

Mr. Berke stated that a public review and comment period on the proposed policy revisions was completed in December 2006.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the revision to the legal assistance funding requirements. Commissioner Bieber seconded the motion.

A brief discussion followed regarding the comments received from the public on the proposed revisions. Commissioner Pawelski noted approval of the revision would require two actions by the Commission. The first action would be to rescind the maintenance of effort policy for legal services. Once rescinded, the Commission would need to approve the change in Standard C-9 of the Operating Standards for Area Agencies on Aging. After further discussion Commissioner Wilson withdrew her previous motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to rescind the maintenance of effort policy and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the revision to Standard C-9 of the Operating Standards for Area Agencies on Aging raising the required minimum expenditure for Legal Services from 5% to 6.5%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walters. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

#### **Amendment to Region 1-C 2007 Area Implementation Plan (AIP) Special Conditions**

Jan Bowlin, OSA staff, introduced Bob Brown, Director and Monique James, Deputy Director of The Senior Alliance, Inc. Ms. Bowlin stated the Commission approved the FY 2007-2009 Multi-Year Plan (MYP)/FY 2007 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for the Senior Alliance – Region 1C at the September 15, 2006 meeting with special conditions related to repayment of past liabilities to Wayne County. Ms. Bowlin noted the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) has received formal notification of the repayment, in full, of the debt to Wayne County Office on Nutrition. As a result, OSA is asking the Commissions approval to remove all special conditions from The Senior Alliance's approved 2007 Area Implementation Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to amend The Senior Alliance's approved 2007 Annual Implementation Plan by removing the special conditions previously attached to that plan and seconded by Commissioner Bieber. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

Chairperson Kennedy commended The Senior Alliance for their efforts to re-pay the funds owed to Wayne County Office on Nutrition ahead of schedule and the improved efficiency of the agency

#### **Region 1-C Waiver for 2006 Priority Services Requirement**

Jan Bowlin, OSA staff, stated Standard C-9 of the Operating Standards for Area Agencies on Aging requires specific minimum expenditures of Older Americans Act Title III Part B for priority service categories. Ms. Bowlin noted The Senior Alliance expended funds to meet the requirements established for the identified priority services,

but expended local resources, in combination with Title III Part B funds, to meet the requirements in FY 2006. Commission approval of a waiver is requested from the Commission to avoid an audit disallowance for the agency.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bieber to approve Appendix L – Waiver of Priority Services Requirement for The Senior Alliance and seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

### **Approval of the State Advisory Council (SAC) Nominations**

Commissioner Walters, Chairperson of the State Advisory Council, presented the State Advisory Council nominations for 2007 membership to the SAC. Commissioner Walters stated a large number of applications from very well qualified individuals were received and reviewed by the nominating committee. Commissioner Walters stated the nominating committee has a very difficult task of recommending new members while also ensuring compliance with SAC requirements for senior representation, diversity, and geographic representation. If approved, letters to all new members and applicants would be mailed following the joint Commission and State Advisory council meeting in April.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the appointments of new members to the State Advisory Council as presented and seconded by Commissioner Leung. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Verma asked how many SAC applications were from representatives of minority or ethnic communities. Ms. Steiner indicated that she did not have the information available at the meeting to provide that number, but indicated that several of the recommended new members represented minority and/or ethnic communities. More discussion followed on strategies for increasing the number of SAC membership applications from minority and ethnic communities.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

### **State Advisory Council By-laws Revision**

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, stated the SAC By-laws review panel, consisting of Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Walters, Commissioner Bollinger, and Lawrence Chadzynski (SAC member) met and discussed revisions to the SAC By-laws. Given the increasing complexity of the Commission's charge to the SAC, the review panel is recommending a revision in the term of service for SAC membership, from a 2-year term to a 3-year term. Other proposed revisions include a strengthening of the language pertaining to meeting attendance and absences. If approved, the change in terms of service will require re-structuring of the terms of service for current SAC members. As a result, the review panel is asking for discussion regarding this proposed change by the Commission as a whole. Ms. Steiner stated that any proposed revisions to the SAC By-Laws were subject to a 30-day review period prior to Commission action on the proposed revisions.

Consensus was reached by the Commission to extend the SAC term of service to 3 years and have the by-law language state that as such in draft form. The draft will be forwarded to the Commission for consideration and action at the April Commission meeting.

Commissioner Verma also requested that the review panel consider a language change that strengthens the requirements for minority representation on the SAC. Commissioner Walters reminded the Commission that many different membership requirements, including senior representation, diversity, and geographic representation, already exist and that other avenues exist for increasing the number of SAC membership applications from various minority and ethnic communities.

Discussion followed and draft language will be submitted for Commission review and approval.

#### Legislative Update and Advocacy Process Action Team

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, updated the Commission on legislative bills that relate to senior issues.

#### Presentation of the 2006 Annual Report

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, presented the 2006 Annual Report and gave a brief overview to the Commission.

#### Indian American Elderly and Culturally Anchored Services: Myth or Reality

Commissioner Verma introduced Dr. Chathapuram Ramanathan and invited him to make his presentation on the characteristics and diversity of the Indian American Elderly. Dr. Ramanathan has worked in the human service area for over two and one half decades and is an internationally renowned speaker on cultural diversity. In the late 80s and early 90s, Dr. Ramanathan served on Michigan Governor's Multi Cultural Mental Health Education Task Force. Dr. Ramanathan served on the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) International Commission from 1992-2004 and has been serving CSWE as a trained site visitor for over 15 years, reviewing graduate and undergraduate programs for accreditation. He has served on several agencies board of directors, as well as the editorial boards of two major journals. Dr. Ramanathan has presented over 50 papers and workshops in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Portugal, Malaysia, Singapore, Netherlands, the U.K., Turkey, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ireland, Brazil, and Poland. In addition to information on the diversity of the Indian American elderly population, Dr. Ramanathan also provided many valuable insights as to how the Michigan Aging network might provide more culturally responsive services to ethnically diverse older populations.

#### Other

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Following today's meeting a public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A joint meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging and the State Advisory Council will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 22, 2007 at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing, Michigan. In conjunction with the joint meeting, a public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.